

COLORADO RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

METHODOLOGY FOR DETERMINATION OF EFFECT

1. Identification of **impact thresholds** for each impact topic (e.g. water quality, cultural resources, visitor experience)
2. Using the impact thresholds, determine how components (e.g. changes in motor use, group size, trip lengths or seasonal use) or combinations of **components affect the impact topic**. Assign a rating that includes the following:
 - a. Timing (How often, how frequent, or at what time or season does the effect occur?)
 - b. Context (Is the effect regional? Localized? Both?)
 - c. Duration (Is the effect long term? Short term? Both?)
 - d. Intensity (Is the effect beneficial or adverse? Is it negligible, minor, moderate, or major?)
3. Assign an **overall rating** for effects to the impact topic resource using the range of impacts identified for the components of the alternative (see #2). For some impact topics, determine an impact rating for the change from current condition. For example: based on the impact threshold, the overall rating for the action alternative may be adverse and moderate, but if the overall rating for current condition is adverse and major, then the change from current condition would be minor and beneficial.
4. Identify actions that could **mitigate effects** and determine:
 - a. Whether they could be reasonably implemented and
 - b. Whether they could bring moderate and major impacts down to a minor intensity
5. Address **cumulative effect** for each impact topic by:
 - a. Using impact thresholds to rate impacts of cumulative actions (current, past or foreseeable future actions)
 - b. Using impact thresholds to rate impacts of each alternative *combined* with the impact of cumulative actions (see 5.a).
 - c. Identifying the extent to which impacts from each alternative **contribute** to the combined cumulative effect.
6. Identify whether **impairment** would occur to Park resources